

NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
PROPRIETOR.

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LONDON OFFICE OF THE NEW YORK HERALD—NO. 46 FLEET STREET.

Subscriptions and advertisements will be received and forwarded on the same terms as in New York.

VOLUME XL.....NO. 44

AMUSEMENTS THIS AFTERNOON AND EVENING.

METROPOLITAN THEATRE.
No. 23 Broadway.—VARIETY, at 5 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M.

NEW YORK STADT THEATRE.
Bowery.—EINGELDER KAUFMANN, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:15 P. M.

OLYMPIC THEATRE.
No. 236 Broadway.—VARIETY, at 5 P. M.; closes at 10:15 P. M. Matinee at 2 P. M.

BROOKLYN PARK THEATRE.
COLONEL SINN'S VARIETY, at 5 P. M.; closes at 10:15 P. M. Matinee at 2 P. M.

ROMAN HIPPODROME.
Twenty-ninth street and Fourth avenue.—Afternoon and evening at 8 and 10 P. M.

THEATRE COMIQUE.
No. 514 Broadway.—VARIETY, at 5 P. M.; closes at 10:15 P. M. Matinee at 2 P. M.

FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE.
Twenty-ninth street and Broadway.—WOMEN OF THE DAY, at 5 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M. Matinee at 2 P. M.

TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE.
No. 201 Bowery.—VARIETY, at 5 P. M.; closes at 10:15 P. M. Matinee at 2 P. M.

LYCEUM THEATRE.
Fourth street and Sixth avenue.—THE NEW MAGNOLIA, at 5 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M. Matinee at 2 P. M.

BRANT'S OPERA HOUSE.
West Twenty-third street, near Sixth avenue.—NEGRO MINSTRELS, at 5 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M. Matinee at 2 P. M.

GERMANIA THEATRE.
Fourth street and Sixth avenue.—at 5 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M. Matinee at 2 P. M.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.
Irving place.—THE TALISMAN, at 5 P. M.; closes at 10:15 P. M. Matinee at 2 P. M.

PARK THEATRE.
Broadway.—French Opera House.—GROPE-GROPE, at 5 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M. Matinee at 2 P. M.

NIBLO'S.
Broadway.—THE OCTOBER, at 5 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M. Matinee at 2 P. M.

BOOTH'S THEATRE.
corner of Twenty-third street and Sixth avenue.—HENRY V., at 5 P. M.; closes at 11 P. M. Matinee at 2 P. M.

SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS.
Broadway, corner of Twenty-ninth street.—NEGRO MINSTRELS, at 5 P. M.; closes at 10 P. M. Matinee at 2 P. M.

ROBINSON HALL.
Sixteenth street.—BEGONE DULL CARE, at 5 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M. Matinee at 2 P. M.

ACADEMY OF DESIGN.
corner of Twenty-third street and Fourth avenue.—EXHIBITION OF WATER COLOR PAINTINGS, Open from 9 A. M. to 5 P. M. and from 8 P. M. to 10 P. M.

WALLACK'S THEATRE.
Broadway.—THE SHAUGHRAUN, at 5 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M. Matinee at 2 P. M.

BROOKLYN THEATRE.
Washington street.—CANILE, at 5 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M. Matinee at 2 P. M.

WOODS MUSEUM.
Broadway, corner Third street.—DARING DICK and THE LOST SHIP, at 5 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M. Matinee at 2 P. M.

TRIPLE SHEET.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1875.

From our reports this morning the probabilities are that the weather to-day will be colder and partly cloudy.

WALL STREET YESTERDAY.—The stock market was dull and lower. Foreign exchange steady. Money was quoted on call at 2 and 3 per cent. Gold, 114½.

THE ACTION OF THE SENATE yesterday on the Oregon Railway scheme determines the fate of all subsidy measures during this session of Congress.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES was in Committee of the Whole on the Tariff bill yesterday; but though Mr. E. H. Roberts and Mr. Kelley both made elaborate speeches no new views of political economy were enunciated.

GREAT INTEREST attaches to the search after the Hon. William S. King, the missing man. At present it seems as difficult to find him as it was to find the man who struck Billy Patterson. Everybody ought to be on the look-out for him, and the correspondence which we print this morning shows that a good many people are looking for him.

FRANCE rejects the Senate, and the dissolution of the Assembly is imminent. A crisis in the affairs of the Republic is unavoidable, and it may as well come now as at any other time. The usefulness of the present Assembly has been long at an end, and a general election is the only way by which the government can be put upon a secure foundation.

THE CHINESE SUCCESSION.—It turns out that the Sister of the Moon did not follow the Brother of the Sun from the Flowery Kingdom to the Celestial realms, but, on the contrary, is in a fair way to give birth to another Son of Heaven. So the Chinese succession is still in doubt, and the young Empress, who was reported to have committed suicide, may yet become the Empress Mother.

IRISH HOME RULE.—Our despatches this morning indicate a renewed agitation of the Irish home rule question in the Imperial Parliament, and there is a threatened secession of the home rulers from that body. This is a device that has been often practised in the United States during the last few years, beginning with the secession of the Southern Congressmen in 1861, but it has never proved an effective measure of partisan policy. It will scarcely be more effective should Ireland attempt it in the English House of Commons. The proper way for Ireland to secure home rule is to remain in Parliament and battle for it in the only place where it can be secured.

David A. Wells on the Currency—
"The Cremation Theory of Resumption."

In accordance with its plan of eliciting the ablest pens in the country and the world in treating special questions of deep public interest, the HERALD lays before its readers this morning the most enlightened discussion of the question of resuming specie payments which has as yet been presented to the American public. It is by Mr. David A. Wells, prepared by him at our request, and is an admirable specimen of the joint application of scientific principles and wide practical knowledge to the solution of a great problem. Mr. Wells is almost the only American writer on this class of subjects who has acquired a European reputation and is quoted as a high authority by foreign economists. Besides a fondness for this kind of inquiries, founded on a strong natural aptitude, he has devoted his whole time and all the vigor of his mind for the last fourteen years to investigations connected with our financial system, pursuing his researches not like a mere scholar or theorist, but by going abroad into the world and making diligent personal inspection of the practical working of our banks, our great manufacturing and mercantile establishments, our principal railroads, our systems of taxation, both State and national, our mining industries and our foreign and domestic exchanges. It is this practical cast of his mind which seeks to build on a sure basis of facts, not taken at second hand from books, but acquired by original observation and constant intercourse with every variety of men in the higher walks of business, that have given to the labors of Mr. Wells their great value and reputation.

It is impossible to make a synopsis of Mr. Wells' elaborate communication without doing it injustice. To present his mere conclusions, separated from the copious array of facts and arguments with which he supports them, would deprive them of their persuasive and convincing character, and merely gratify a curiosity to know what he says instead of enabling readers to see what he has proved. As this great subject is likely to occupy public attention for several years it is worth the while of all who would really understand it to bestow on Mr. Wells' paper a very attentive perusal, which will exempt them from reading, or teach them to despise a great deal of the current trash on this question.

Mr. Wells amusingly christens the views he advocates as the "cremation" theory of resumption. The process he recommends is for the Secretary of the Treasury to burn half a million of greenbacks every week, making twenty-six millions a year. According to his estimate it will require something less than four years to bring the currency to par by this method, making a gradual reduction of the premium on gold at the rate of about three per cent per annum. As the greater part of business engagements through the agency of banks mature at periods considerably less than four months, debtors could lose, at most, but one per cent on each transaction, or half of one per cent on an ordinary sixty-day note. This small gain by bankers and capitalists would tend to make them more liberal in granting loans for the accommodation of the business public, and would therefore have a compensating advantage. There is at present a superabundance of money in all our commercial centres which can be had on call loans at an almost nominal rate of interest, and yet it was never so difficult to borrow money for a considerable period. The reason is that capitalists have no confidence in the future and fear that a long loan might be repaid in a currency so depreciated as to eat up a great part of the interest. But a gradual and certain approach to specie payments, extending over a period of four years, would not only insure capitalists against loss but would operate as a small bonus on loans and bring all the money of the country into active employment. Money is borrowed on call loans chiefly for speculative purposes, whereas long loans are wanted for the prosecution of legitimate business and starting productive enterprises. The gradual contraction which Mr. Wells advocates would therefore have a strong tendency to set the wheels of legitimate business again in motion by re-establishing the confidence of capitalists and making it for their interest to extend liberal accommodations to the business public.

The idea that steady contraction on the gradual plan Mr. Wells proposes would operate disastrously is refuted and exploded by abundant facts in the recent financial history of the world. France, between October, 1873, and December, 1874, contracted its currency by a thousand million francs, or two hundred million dollars of our money, and yet the business of that country has not perceptibly suffered by want of pecuniary accommodation. Mr. Wells shows that the great outcry which caused Congress to arrest the contraction policy pursued for several months by Secretary McCulloch was the result of their imagination and visionary fears. It is a fact, now first made known to the public by Mr. Wells, that there was no actual contraction of the currency during that period, and that it was all a mere matter of bookkeeping entries in the Treasury ledgers. The fact that no commercial inconvenience was experienced from the causes which changed the value of the currency between 1865 and 1873, bringing down the price of gold from 133 to 10, is an additional proof that the dangers feared from contraction are chimerical. Mr. Wells' handling of this branch of the subject is very masterly and convincing, but we cannot repeat his facts and arguments in detail.

The assumed oppression of the debtor class by gradual contraction is reduced by Mr. Wells to its proper dimensions. He proves most conclusively that the great bulk of the people do not belong to the debtor class, and are precluded by their condition from entering it. Capitalists are too prudent and wary to lend their money except to people of pecuniary responsibility, whose possession of property is a guarantee of repayment. The mass of the community are incapable of getting in debt beyond a very moderate amount which the wages of the week, or the month, or the season, suffice for paying. The thrifty portion of people of small incomes—a very large class—are seldom in debt at all, and they form the most numerous body of creditors in the country. The eleven hundred millions deposited in the savings banks show how numerous and widespread is the class of

creditors as compared with that of debtors. Those who borrow this money of the savings banks are comparatively few, and are men of property who can give the ample security required by these institutions. Hundreds of thousands of other people in moderate circumstances, who possess property or make savings, invest them in railroad bonds or other securities, and belong also to the creditor class who would gain by an appreciation of the currency. The debtor class is really very small as compared with the whole body of the community, and the majority of it consists of merchants, manufacturers, miners and forwarders, who would gain more by the increased facilities of borrowing consequent on a steady and assured appreciation in the value of the currency and the revival of confidence and prosperity than they would lose in the difference between the value of the money they borrow and that in which they would make payment. It is very important that the public be educated to correct views on this subject, and the able communication of Mr. Wells is the most valuable contribution to the general enlightenment which has yet been offered to the American public.

The Lesson of the Hartford Fire.

There was another terrible fire yesterday, this time Hartford being the scene of the destruction. While it by no means reached the proportions of the recent conflagrations in Chicago, Baltimore and Boston, it was still sufficiently great to call renewed attention to the insecurity of our large cities. One of the chief difficulties in the way of the Hartford firemen was found in the fact that the fire plugs were frozen, thereby weakening the efficiency of the Fire Department. This is a danger common to all the Northern cities in a season of such intense cold as the present, and it is one that should be carefully guarded against. It is comparatively easy to prevent the water from freezing in the pipes and hydrants if the proper precautions are taken. Neglect of these precautions may destroy a city while the firemen are preparing to make themselves useful. It is a danger which never so sternly confronted us before; but just as we had begun to point out the danger in our own city this Hartford fire occurs and gives a new force to our argument. It is a lesson which should not be neglected. Many houses in this city have been without water for weeks, and in some localities much precious time would be wasted in case of a fire before the frozen pipes could be thawed and made to supply the engines. Hartford's disaster teaches New York and other cities not to trust their security to uncertain fire plugs and service pipes.

The Fifth Avenue Pavement.

We trust that the proposed legislation for the repavement of Fifth Avenue in a substantial manner, worthy of the beauty and utility of that highway, will not be of such a character as to compel the Governor to veto it or to bring odium upon the Legislature. This is the mistake that Senator Hugh Moore has made in his bill for providing rapid transit—a bill which violates the constitution and simply repeats the old Tammany legislation. It is generally understood that the proposal to pave Fifth Avenue with asphalt or with any chemical composition which will crack in winter and melt in summer, and which has never been really a success even in the equable climate of Paris, will be abandoned. No interest can be served by a pavement of this kind except the interests of those who own patents for preparing peculiar pavements. Now, we have no doubt that many pavements have been invented which will be an advantage to the city. It may be that ingenious men will succeed in devising other pavements that will supersede those now in use. We shall be glad at any time to welcome these plans when they are something more than experimental. But just now our experience of what was done under the Tammany Ring in the way of politicizing the streets so that they became quagmires and quicksands or marshy pools, offensive to men and dangerous to horses, is too vivid for us to look with comfort upon any tampering with Fifth Avenue. We are satisfied to have as good pavements as the Romans had, or to have such a road as Macadam invented, and which all experience proves to be the best in cities like New York. The paving will cost enough when it is done. We do not wish any experiments. We know what a Macadamized road is and that it suits our climate; therefore we trust that any measure but one that involves the principle of Macadam, or one equally as good, will be defeated by the Legislature as a worthless job.

THE ICE BRIDGE was again formed on the East River yesterday, and hundreds of persons passed and repassed between the two cities. Nothing more foolhardy could be attempted. Great masses of ice floating down the stream and subject to the tides and currents are not the things to be trusted with the security of life. They are always liable to break up and rush down the bay, bearing with them their human freight. It is astonishing that some great calamity has not already occurred from the action of people who trust themselves to such an insecure footing, and we wish to warn those not wishing to make a headless sacrifice to avoid the danger. If the habit of foolhardy adventure which has been growing upon our people of late years is persisted in a terrible disaster will be the result. A little inconvenience is preferable to the risk of life, especially in a case where the chances are so evenly balanced for so little good. Our account of the difficulty which attended the passage of the North and East rivers, and the exciting and ludicrous scenes on the boats and ice, is a singular chapter in metropolitan life.

THE BRECHER THAL met with an unexpected impediment yesterday on account of the ice blockade in the East River. A juryman was unable to be present in the morning, and the case was finally adjourned till Monday, owing to limited communication between the two cities.

THAT TERRIBLE BEGGAR, the District of Columbia, was again the subject of debate in the Senate yesterday. The District is not to have a Delegate in Congress, and one of the three Commissioners is to be elected by the people, according to the Senate amendments. The consideration of the bill gave opportunity for a little political badinage between Mr. Morton and Mr. Tamm, but beyond this it had no very great importance.

Home Rule in New York.

We do not know that we are prepared to accept the "Costigan bill," as it is called, in all its phases. These bills, introduced into our Legislatures for the purpose of "reforming the city government," are generally of a treacherous character. They require close supervision. We have never seen a city charter, for instance, that was not as intricate as a Chinese puzzle. One trick was never solved without finding another inside of it. We leave, therefore, the details of the Costigan bill to those who are expert in such matters, contenting ourselves with approving the principle which animates it.

There can be no measure of reform so welcome to New York as that which establishes home rule in this city. We recognize how, in a large and generous sense, this city and other municipalities are dependent upon the State. But the function of the State is as distinct from the office of the municipality as the government of the family is from the government of the State. The trouble heretofore has been that the State, when it has suited its purposes, usurped the functions of the city. The State has so frequently been in the hands of needy politicians and adventurers who sought place and jobs for their friends. They looked upon New York as a rich placer, and treated it very much as the early miners in California dealt with the placers of the Sacramento Valley. They thought only of the gold it contained, and destroyed all other values. Every year for many years a gang of greedy men have obtained power in Albany. Their first use of power was to plunder New York. All the misfortunes which fell upon our city from the Tammany Ring came through Albany. Albany was the rock on which Tweed stood when he began his campaign of robbery and shame. Albany was at the root of our corrupt commissions, our inefficient police, the plundered treasury and the dismantled departments of our city—a city robbed under one administration and stifled under another. We can think of nothing in a large sense beneficent which this city owes to the Albany influence. On the contrary, there has scarcely been an instance in which the State interfered with the city where its influence has not been pernicious.

As we understand the principle of the Costigan bill it is to do away with this unwholesome relation, to free the city, not from its proper dependence on the State, but from its subservience to it. In other words, this bill embodies the principle of home rule. The argument made that to pass the bill would be to reflect upon Mr. Tilden is a trifling one. We must not legislate for a city like New York in deference to the wishes of any man, be he Governor or not. The moment our democratic friends begin to pass bills that will please one officer, or not to pass them for fear they might displease him, they drift into the old condition of favoritism and misgovernment. Mr. Tilden is one officer of the State who may pass away to-morrow. It is his duty to administer the laws, and not the duty of the Legislature to legislate to suit his fancy. Furthermore, Mr. Tilden is too much of a statesman, we are convinced, to allow his personal wishes to interfere with a large measure of reform. Therefore, our impression is strong in favor of the Costigan bill. Unless there is some reason for its defeat that does not appear to us on its face we trust that it will be adopted without delay.

The Rights of Authors.

The case that will be tried to-day before Judge Woodruff, between Mr. Boucicault and Mr. Hart, in reference to "The Shaughraun," involves a most interesting question. "The Shaughraun" is the most successful comedy of the season and one of the most brilliant on the American stage. Its success is a remarkable event. How far can an author and actor be secure in the enjoyment of such success? A play like "The Shaughraun" is as much a property as if Mr. Boucicault had founded a newspaper or built him a barn. We have no means of knowing the value of a property of this character; but, judging from the success at Wallack's and the assurance of gain throughout the country—such as we saw in "Rip Van Winkle" and Lord Dundreary—we should think that Mr. Boucicault would regard his play as worth certainly a quarter of a million of dollars. Now, how far has any adventurous and ingenious rival the right to assail or to injure a property of this value? The law protects the sewing machine and the patent medicine, and it should protect the dramatist.

The averment is that "The Shaughraun" is an adaptation from an Irish comedy, written not long since for the English stage, and called "Pyke O'Callaghan." This is a direct statement and one easily enough considered. We have looked into "Pyke O'Callaghan" curiously, to see how far Mr. Boucicault had demeaned his genius by pilfering from an unknown work. There is no resemblance; no real, and scarcely an apparent resemblance. The pretence that "The Shaughraun," with its exquisite dialogue, its unique and original effects, its grace and color and delicacy of tone, is copied from a forgotten comedy, written for a subordinate London theatre, is so absurd that it is a burlesque upon justice to take it into Court. This we feel bound to say, because the matter is one of simple justice and fair play, that public opinion should decide without waiting for the tedious process of law. In "Pyke O'Callaghan" there are the ordinary characters of the Irish drama—the royalist, the rebel, the servant man and the informer. In "The Shaughraun" there is an officer, a rebel, a servant and an informer. But we have these characters in all modern Irish stories and comedies. This is because the comedy is the legend of its time. Every generation has its own comedy, with marked traits and resemblances, just as it has its manners and customs. There is the comedy of Congreve and Goldsmith, of Sheridan and Boucicault, each school different only as the ages differ. For an actor to take "The Shaughraun" and play it under a thin disguise, merely because it has the general features of all modern Irish comedy, is as absolute a wrong as it would have been for a rival of Sheridan to have appropriated "The School for Scandal" on the ground that a stern old father, a giddy wife almost tripping, a hypocrite and a spendthrift were also in other comedies. "The Shaughraun" is an Irish comedy in this that it pictures Irish society just as "Pyke O'Callaghan" pictured it. The royalist, the servant, the rebel and the informer exist, and they come into all comedies.

But in every essential of the comedy "The Shaughraun" is as different from "Pyke O'Callaghan" as from the "Taming of the Shrew."

This, we repeat, is a question for public opinion as well as the courts of law. How can we have plays like "The Shaughraun" if our dramatists are not protected in the ownership of a good work when they do it? How can we hope to elevate the stage if every successful play can be carried off by the first rival who envies its success? The question commands itself to every sentiment of manly fair play.

His Excellency's Ingenious Plan for the Pacification of Arkansas.

The keynote of the statesmanlike policy which His Excellency is pursuing with such praiseworthy assiduity and pleasing results was struck in the closing sentence of his first letter of acceptance conveying the fervent aspiration which has been so singularly realized, "Let us have peace!" It has been said that the first impression on a person who visits a great work of art or sublime scene in nature—like St. Peter's Church at Rome or Niagara Falls—is a feeling of disappointment, and that it is only by considerable familiarity that the mind rises and expands to take in the full grandeur of the object. We fancy that a stranger, who has not contemplated it long and lovingly, would experience a similar difficulty in doing full justice to His Excellency's noble policy of "peace." It would not be quite reverent to compare it to the wisdom which the pen of inspiration tells us is "unsearchable and past finding out;" but we trust we shall deserve no rebuke for saying that His Excellency's policy of peace is an enormous, an inscrutable blessing, which ordinary citizens, whom Mr. Lincoln used to call "plain people," cannot easily expand their minds to comprehend.

The latest exhibition of His Excellency's genius for watering the tree of peace and covering it with fragrance-diffusing blossoms, making it "a thing of beauty and a joy forever," is that marvel of healing and conciliation, the Arkansas Message. To be sure, the State is as quiet and orderly as it has ever been at any time since its first admission into the Union; but the very fact that His Excellency thinks he can improve upon such a condition attests the high ideal standard at which he aims. He is not content to follow the homely rule of letting well enough alone. He wishes for "better bread than can be made of wheat." The mere vulgar tranquillity which has prevailed in Arkansas since the adoption of its new constitution does not satisfy His Excellency, and he wishes to administer the new elixir of peace which it has been reserved for him to discover. If it were Arkansas itself, instead of His Excellency, that had discovered this surprising elixir, we might have some fear that there would be a fresh occasion for the old epithet:—"I was well, wished to be better, took physic—and here I lie." But in the hands of His Excellency the new peace medicine will of course work wonders.

The novelty and originality of this new method of peace must not prejudice superficial people against it. To overthrow a constitution which a large majority of the people adopted and approve; to install a Governor whose claim to the office His Excellency himself last spring, after careful examination, assisted by legal advice, decided to be unfounded; to pour troops into the State to overturn its constitution, upset its government and force a bogus Chief Magistrate upon an unwilling people, must have a wonderfully pacifying influence on the temper of the citizens. Appearances may seem against it, but appearances lie on the surface. If the army sent to Arkansas should be large enough there need be no misgivings that His Excellency will be unable to establish a more perfect peace than ever existed in a free community. It may be as perfect as the peace which reigns on a battlefield after contending armies have withdrawn, leaving their dead on the ground. No spectacle of peace can be so perfect in the eyes of a wanderer who surveys it, and if His Excellency is bent on such a peace in Arkansas there can be no question of the fitness of the means he proposes for consummating it. But the medicine will fail if it is not administered bountifully. Nothing is so peaceful as a corpse, and His Excellency will have complete success as a State physician if the medicine, whose first effect must be inevitable convulsions, is only given in quantities large enough to insure that supreme quiet which no subsequent malpractice can ever disturb.

VANILLA.—The English government is making strong efforts to introduce the culture of vanilla into the East Indies. Vanilla is a native of Mexico and the warm regions of Central and South America. The demand for it has increased with the progress of refinement and luxury. As the pods have come to be used in Germany for dyeing purposes there will be a still greater demand. The stock at present is generally found in Mexico, Venezuela and Brazil, but the English authorities think that if the bean takes root in a climate like Bengal it will add a new industry to India. Would it not be well for some of our people to see what can be done with the vanilla plant in southern California or some other of our tropical States?

THE FUR SEAL QUESTION.—We notice that at a recent session of Congress a bill was introduced authorizing a commissioner to proceed to the Territory of Alaska, after the adjournment of the present Congress, to inquire into the condition of the fur seals of the islands of St. Paul and St. George, the number of seals annually killed, and to "inquire if an increased number can be killed without endangering the perpetuity of the fisheries." This is the most interesting and profitable fishery that we have. There have long been rumors that it has been selfishly managed by its owners. The fur seal only inhabits the islands of Alaska, and our government should take prompt measures for bringing the fishery under severe jurisdiction. It would be a great pity if by a little neglect now it should be destroyed.

THE STATE CHARITIES AID ASSOCIATION makes an appeal for ten thousand dollars to enable the society to carry on the work it has undertaken. One feature of the society—that of finding work for able-bodied paupers and homes for poor children—commends it to

the confidence of the entire community and makes it desirable that the influence of the association should be extended. Every year the question of pauperism will thrust itself more and more upon public attention, and we must overcome its evils by preparing to meet them before they become overwhelming.

IF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS fail to find in the question of rapid transit a problem of sufficient importance to engage their mathematical minds it will be difficult to provide that learned body with a mission. It seems that many of the members are opposed to taking any action in the matter, on the ground that a quick transit road is a matter of local engineering, in which some of them have private interests through plans of their own. This is a view so narrow and selfish that we are astonished it should be urged in a scientific body formed for the purpose of advancing the profession of engineering, and it will result to the discredit of the society if the civil engineers fail to recommend a plan for this great work.

IRRIGATION.—We observe in the East India journals that the government is profiting by the terrible warning of the famine to introduce a new system of irrigation. This question is one of great interest. Considering that so large a part of our own territory must in the future depend upon irrigation for its fruitfulness and general succession of crops, our people should carefully study everything that has been done on this subject in countries like India and Egypt.

DISCOVERIES IN ASTRONOMY.—The English and French governments are taking steps toward securing observations of the total eclipse of the sun, which will be visible in the East Indies on the 6th of April. Dismell's government has granted five thousand dollars toward the enterprise. The calculations of the astronomers show that no eclipse of the sun will equal this in interest until 1893, when it will be seen in Central and South America. It is thought that the British expedition will leave early in February.

PERSONAL INTELLIGENCE.

Mr. John Jay Knox, Comptroller of the Currency, is at the Fifth Avenue Hotel.

Captain Williams is evidently a part of the police which needs reconstruction.

Rev. T. Harwood Pattison, of London, yesterday arrived at the Statuette House.

The condition of Congressman Hooper, who is ill in Washington, has become worse.

State Senator F. W. Tobey, of Port Henry, N. Y., is registered at the Fifth Avenue Hotel.

Mr. Andrew D. White, President of Cornell University, has apartments at the Fifth Avenue Hotel.

Rev. Dr. R. B. Fairbairn, of St. Stephen's College, has taken up his residence at the St. James Hotel.

General John N. Knapp, recently of Governor Dix's staff, is residing temporarily at the Windsor Hotel.

Congressman George W. Hendee, of Vermont, is among the late arrivals at the Fifth Avenue Hotel.

Mr. James F. Joy, President of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad Company, is sojourning at the Windsor Hotel.

Mr. James Harlan, of Washington, formerly United States Senator from Iowa, is stopping at the Fifth Avenue Hotel.

Admiral James Alden, United States Navy, General W. N. Grier, United States Army, and William Astor, Esq., arrived in Jacksonville, Fla., on the 8th inst.

Dr. G. H. Kingsley, brother of the late Canon Kingsley, arrived at the Brevoort House yesterday from Quebec, and will sail for England to-day in the steamship Baltic.

The gross receipts of two street railway companies—the Sixth and Eighth avenue lines—are \$1,586,762, which, at five cents fare, gives upward of 31,000,000 passengers carried by the two in 1874.

The proposition in the Legislature to extend the Greenwich street Elevated Railroad is good, and will give a substantial morsel of rapid transit. It was voted last year. Governor Tilden, we hope, is not interested in a rival enterprise.

Luckily the Civil Rights bill is not a law, or Mayor Wickham's discrimination on account of "race, color," &c., in refusing to marry a white woman and a black man might get us all into trouble, and His Excellency might favor us with some military attention.

Managerial manners. The manager holds forth with a sympathetic friend on the decay of the drama:—"There are no authors—no plays. There is not a decent piece and not one to be had for love or money." At this point a timid youth is shown in, who requests permission to leave the manuscript of a play for the manager's consideration. "No, sir," says the manager, savagely. "As I was just saying to this gentleman, I have played enough in the house for ten years."

Paris figures as an evildoer in the Dub D'Amble is not a mean man the fact that in the year 1874 he gave away \$30,000. He is one of the owners of that famous Orleans property, the restoration of which, just after the war, was looked upon as a financial burden worthy to be mentioned in connection with the five million and the German war requisitions.

Charles Gautier recently died in Paris, the last of a series of Charles Gautiers, father and son known to have succeeded one another from the time of Louis le Hutin. They were not nobles, but common people, and several times declined to be ennobled. Instances of a family of "common people" thus preserving the record of their descent from a period so remote are very rare. Gautier died from wounds received in the war.

In Japan they have the Pure Shinto, in which, as we learn from a newspaper of that country, the sixth prayer is addressed to Oho-kuni-nushi, "who rules the Unseen, and to his consort Suseri-bime, whom is dedicated the ancient temple of Oho-yasiro in Izumo. By the term 'Unseen' are meant peace or disturbance in the Empire, its prosperity; and adversity, the life and death, good and bad fortune of human beings; in due, every super natural event which cannot be ascribed to a definite author. The most fearful crimes which a mai commits go unpunished by society so long as they are undiscovered, but they draw down on him the hatred of the invisible gods. The attainment of happiness by performing good acts is regulated by the same law." Won't some of the big importing houses introduce the Shinto?

Was the "Pilgrim's Progress" invented by a Dutchman? The weight of evidence is that way. The London Athenaeum says:—"Mr. Donce le Sontheijer for perusal a copy of the Dutch book 'Dat Boeck van den Pelgrim,' Deit, H. Eckert van Hombrecht, 1498, 2to, which is now in the Bodleian Library, at Oxford; and, although Sontheijer did not perhaps understand Dutch, still the wood cut must have shown him it contained the gist of Bunyan's book; yet he prefers to condemn it 'Boeck van den Pelgrim' (Deit, 1498, 4to) with the 'Duivelen' edent Willemken Pelgrimage (Antwerp, 1627). With engravings by Bouwert. The edition of Degenerius' book of the Pilgrim, printed at Del, 1498, was not the first. A previous edition, 'Dit is dat Boeck van Pelgrimage,' had been printed at Harlem, by Jacob Telletier, 1498, 16mo. Dr. Barlow, the Bishop of Lincoln, who is usually said to have procured the release of Bunyan from an imprisonment which had lasted not less than twelve years and a hat (it was after, not during, his imprisonment that he wrote the 'Pilgrim's Progress'), may have shown him an English MS. translation of Degenerius' 'Pilgrimage of Man,' which after having been in the possession of Bishop Moore, who died in 1714, is still in the Cambridge University Library. That the books are identical in their main purport seems beyond doubt."